

Message Text

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43

ACTION IO-14

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INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 3252

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, UNDP, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH CONTRIBUTION TO UNDP AND OTHER UN VOLUNTARY
PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 178362 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: MFA OFFICIALS INFORMED EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 11 THAT SWEDISH UNDP CONTRIBUTION OF UP TO SKR 170 MILLION (ALMOST \$ US 40.5 MILLION AT CURRENT RATE OF SKR 4.20 TO \$ US 1.00) HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED FOR FY 1974; MFA PRESENTLY UNDECIDED HOW MUCH OF THIS AMOUNT IT WILL PLEDGE. GOS PLANS ONCE AGAIN TO MAKE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR ASSISTANCE TO LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, PROBABLY OF ABOUT \$3 MILLION AS IN 1973. GOS CONTRIBUTION TO UN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (UNCDF) UNLIKELY IN FY 1974 AND GOS IS NOT INCLINED TO INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO UN FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES (UNFPA) UNTIL POPULATION FUND BECOMES MORE EFFICIENT.

END SUMMARY.

1. IN RESPONSE REFTTEL, EMBOFF CALLED SEPTEMBER 11 ON STAFFAN SOHLMAN, MFA DIRECTOR OF MULTILATERAL AID, AND FRANK BELFRAGE, ASSISTANT ON UNDP MATTERS.

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2. OVERALL UNDP CONTRIBUTION. SOHLMAN SAID APPROVAL FOR SWEDISH UNDP CONTRIBUTION OF UP TO SKR 170 MILLION FOR UNDP YEAR 1974 AND SKR 185 MILLION FOR 1975 HAS BEEN GIVEN WITHIN CURRENT THREE-YEAR AUTHORIZATION PERIOD (1973-75). EXACT AMOUNT TO BE PLEDGED FOR 1974 NOT EXPECTED TO BE DECIDED UNTIL JUST BEFORE PLEDGING CONFERENCE. GOS IS BEGINNING TO THINK ABOUT MATTER AND IS SOLICITING VIEWS OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS. FOR BUDGETARY REASONS, GOS WILL SEEK TO MAKE PLEDGE IN KRONOR RATHER THAN IN DOLLARS BECAUSE OF FLUCTUATING DOLLAR RATES. 1974 AUTHORIZATION IS 33 PERCENT HIGHER THAN AMOUNT PLEDGED IN 1973; INCREASE IN 1974 AUTHORIZATION IS EVEN GREATER IF MEASURED IN CURRENT DOLLARS. THUS THERE WILL BE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE 1974 PLEDGE OVER 1973 LEVEL SHOULD SWEDES SO DESIRE.

3. EARMARKED FUNDS FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. CONTRIBUTION EARMARKED FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WILL ALSO COME FROM GENERAL AUTHORIZATION OF SKR 170 MILLION. SOHLMAN ARGUED NECESSITY FOR EARMARKING ON GROUNDS THAT IF GOVERNMENT INCREASED ITS NORMAL UNDP CONTRIBUTION BY MORE THAN THE 9.6 PERCENT GENERAL TARGET INCREASE, UNDP WOULD USE THE ADDITIONAL SUM TO COVER DEFICITS OF OTHER CONTRIBUTORS AND SWEDEN WOULD BE SUPPORTING ALLOCATION WITH WHICH IT IS PRESENTLY DISSATISFIED. FURTHER, SOHLMAN CLAIMS THAT UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL HAS IN FACT APPROVED GOVERNMENTS EARMARKING FUNDS FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AFTER THEY HAVE MADE EXPECTED CONTRIBUTIONS TO GENERAL UNDP FUND PENDING RE-ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES IN 1977. BELFRAGE LATER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WHILE COUNCIL HAD ENCOURAGED CONTRIBUTIONS ABOVE 9.6 PERCENT INCREASE, IT HAD NOT SPECIFICALLY APPROVED EARMARKING.

4. UNCDF. SOHLMAN ADMITTED THAT SWEDEN HAS BEEN HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT UNCDF. GOS CONSIDERS THAT UNCDF MUST HAVE WIDE SUPPORT TO BE ADEQUATE, BUT IS NOW UNCERTAIN THAT SUCH SUPPORT WILL BE FORTHCOMING. MOREOVER, GOS REGARDS IT AS UNCLEAR WHAT FUND WOULD DO WITH MONIES THAT MIGHT BE PUT AT ITS DISPOSAL. IN SOHLMAN'S OPINION IT IS UNLIKELY THAT GOS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO UNCDF IN 1974.

5. UNFPA. SOHLMAN SAID THAT GOS HAS NOT GIVEN MUCH THOUGHT TO 1974 CONTRIBUTION TO UNFPA. SWEDISH DOUBTS ABOUT UNFPA EFFICIENCY MAKE ANY INCREASE IN SWEDISH CONTRIBUTION IMPROBABLY. GOS WOULD LIKE TO SEE UNFPA APPLY STRICTER CRITERIA AND DISBURSE UNCLASSIFIED

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MORE FUNDS. SOHLMAN THOUGHT PROJECTIONS FOR FORWARD COMMITMENTS AND EXPENDITURES IN FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM PUT FORWARD BY UNFPA LAST JUNE WERE SO VAGUE AS TO BE ALMOST UNPRESENTABLE TO COUNTRY BUDGET OFFICIALS. SOHLMAN ASSURED EMBOFF THAT GOS SKEPTICISM ABOUT UNFPA IN NO WAY INDICATED THAT SWEDEN WAS DISINTERESTED IN POPULATION CONTROL ACTIVITIES; ON CONTRARY, IT WISHED TO IMPROVE UNFPA.

6. EMBOFF MADE POINTS OUTLINED REFTTEL PARAS 4-6 AND PROVIDED
INFORMATION IN PARA 7.
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